

**DMLR Permit Streamline/Standardization
& Regulatory Work Group
Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2004
Oxbow Center, St. Paul, VA**

Attendees

Ed Asbury	Clifton Carson	Daniel Dotten	Beth Clendenon
Dennis Sturgill	Dink Shackelford	Danny Mullins	Jan Osborne
Greg Clark	Danny Shortt	Gary Slone	Greg Baker
Gary Egan	Lynn Haynes	Carolyn Beatty	Richard Davis
Tom Mackey	Butch Lambert	Debbie Whitt	Gavin Bledsoe
Gerald Ramsey	Joey O'Quinn	Bill Bledsoe	Bob Penn
David Slack	Gerald Collins	Bill Kittrell	Annette Poore
Ian Dye	Les Vincent	Benny Wampler	

Les Vincent, DMLR – Les opened the permit streamline/standardization work group. Copies of the meeting agenda were passed around as well as a sign in sheet.

Richard Davis - Richard Davis gave a presentation on AML no-cost agreements. These are abandoned mine land projects wherein active surface or underground permits use their excess spoil to reclaim AML features. The typical project is using excess spoil to backfill highwall and return the abandoned land to an approximate contour. This eliminates the need for companies to construct costly and controversial valley fills and head of hollow fills. As the excess spoil is used to reclaim an AML project, there is no requirement to permit this area. Please contact Richard Davis (276-523-8216) for further information.

David Sanders - David gave a brief overview of changes and enhancements to the Electronic Permitting Program.

Butch Lambert - Butch discussed the following topics:

Temporary Cessation/Contemporaneous Reclamation

The DMLR Audit Team is conducting a focus review of the sites that are currently in temporary cessation (TC). There are approximately 50 sites listed. The team will be evaluating the need for sites to be placed in TC. Some items being considered include; Do TC sites meet current permitting requirements? Are there coal reserves left to be mined? What kinds of activity are being conducted on site? Inspectors will also be reviewing the sites for contemporaneous reclamation. After performing an evaluation, DMLR may be contacting companies that have sites in TC and requiring additional information.

Bond Release/Bond Forfeiture

In the DMLR/OSM Performance Agreement/Work Plan for 2004 Bond Release and Bond Forfeiture Releases, an observation was made that exit channels from pond removals were not being constructed in a manner that prevented erosion. Inspectors will be documenting pond removal conditions on inspection reports to be certain that channels are protected once a pond

has been removed. Also, inspectors will be documenting deletion of water monitoring points and piezometers before bond release of a site.

The new pool bond release regulations are proceeding through the public comment period. The comment period will end on October 12, 2004. The new regulations are being processed concurrently with OSM. OSM has not yet published the proposed rule in the federal register.

Reforestation and Topsoil Substitute

Virginia is a member state on the Appalachian Region Reforestation Initiative team. A brochure has been produced that illustrates the procedures that should be used when implementing a post mining land use of forestry on mine sites. OSM is very supportive of the reforestation initiative. One item that should be closely reviewed during the permit application process is topsoil substitute. Research conducted by VA Tech should be used when selecting a topsoil substitute.